

generosity of members, as \$29,588.68 was received for the national voluntary fund. Congratulations to members for their generosity.

At the heart of your journey through life is that precious, sacred space known only to you and God. This deep place of encounter needs to be protected and nourished through silence, prayer and service to your brothers and sisters. May your CWL council be the source of such infinite goodness in the world!

ORGANIZATION



Lorette Noble

I would like to congratulate all members for the amazing work they have been doing to encourage, maintain and strengthen membership. Membership is crucial: without members, there is no League. At the end of June, we had 95,548 members. What can we do to reach the 100,000 mark?

When we look at the role of women in today's society, what image comes to mind? Women are increasingly working full time and some are married with children. The pursuit of efficiency and productivity at any cost in today's business world often means that if you want to hold on to and advance in your job, you are expected to work incredibly long hours, carrying your laptop wherever you go, even on holiday, which leaves very little time for family, community and social life. Our challenge in the years ahead is to look closely at what the League can offer such women and also at what demands we make on present members. We need to strike a balance between our hope and their expectations and how these may be reasonably and realistically met.

Are meetings held at times and on days that are convenient so that we are likely to attract the best attendance? If not, are we willing to try a change? Are meetings run efficiently, so that busy people do not feel overwhelmed or that they are wasting their time? Can we truly say at the end of every one of our meetings, "I learned something new today"? In other words, is what we have to offer likely to make a new member feel that belonging to the League is worthwhile? Is every one of us here convinced that joining is one of the best decisions we ever made?

We must give special care and attention to councils involved in situations where parishes are merging. We are so good at hospitality and this is where we will be called upon to help ease the transition should two councils decide to become one.

We know that our strength and one that distinguishes us from all other groups and organizations is the depth of our spirituality, which gives meaning to all our actions. In our world today, where there is so much questioning of and at the same time searching for values, our rootedness in gospel values, our shared faith, and our caring for one another are the strongest appeal we can make to Catholic women. I don't know any women of any age or circumstance who would not find this appealing.

So in our recruitment campaigns, our social justice activities, our social events and, above all, in our concern for each other, if we remember that as Catholic women we have a mission to help spread God's message of love to everyone we meet, and we know that the League offers just about the best way of doing this, we surely will be inspired to find ways of drawing other women to join us. If everyone here today goes home and invites one friend to "come and see," we will reach and even pass the 100,000 member mark.

Finally, most of you have heard that the national executive has begun looking at the standing committees and discerning whether they need to be realigned to give better direction to how the League will function in the future. An ad hoc committee was set up and, having received some feedback, a wider consultation will be conducted using focus groups, so that members have a real chance of studying the structure to see whether it still responds to our needs and reflects what is actually taking place at the different levels. This is very exciting and I encourage each and every member to participate in this exercise which will help the League to remain a dynamic and growing organization.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE



Cecile Miller

Two important issues continue to dominate the focus for the Christian family life standing committee: same-sex marriage and euthanasia and assisted suicide.

A free vote in Parliament on a motion to re-open the marriage debate has been promised for this fall. Now is the time for us to make our voices heard by contacting our members of parliament (MPs). The Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) has many resources available. One that is available on the COLF website or by ordering is